

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

1. (Original): A method of assaying a specimen, comprising:
- preparing (i) a specimen, (ii) a liquid cell in which a liquid used for assaying a component in the specimen is to be contained, and (iii) a mixing cell wherein the specimen and the liquid are mixed;
- supplying a liquid reagent into the liquid cell in an amount exceeding the amount required in the assay;
- pipetting a portion of the specimen and a portion of the liquid into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip; and
- washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid cell.
2. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the liquid used for assaying a component in the specimen is at least one selected from the group consisting of a liquid reagent and a liquid diluent.
3. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the inside of the pipetting tip is pre-washed with said liquid contained in the liquid cell before said step of pipetting a portion of the specimen ~~to~~ into the mixing cell.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appln. No. 09/848,330

4. (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid cell is performed after said step of pipetting a portion of the liquid or a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell.

5. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of pipetting ~~and~~ a portion of the liquid into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of pipetting a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid cell is performed.

6. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of pipetting ~~and~~ a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip is performed; and then


the step of pipetting a portion of the liquid into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid cell is performed.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Appl. No. 09/848,330

7. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of pipetting the portion into the mixing cell includes a step of sucking the portion and discharging the ~~liquid in~~ sucked portion into the mixing cell.

8. (Currently Amended): A method of assaying a specimen, comprising:  
preparing (i) a specimen, (ii) a liquid reagent cell in which a liquid reagent is to be contained and a liquid diluent in which a liquid diluent is to be contained, and (iii) a mixing cell wherein the ~~specimen and~~ specimen and the liquid reagent are mixed;

 supplying a liquid reagent and a liquid diluent respectively into the liquid reagent cell and the liquid diluent in respective amounts each exceeding the amount required in the assay; and

pipetting a portion of the specimen, a portion of the liquid reagent and a portion of the liquid diluent into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip; and

said method further comprising at least one step of:

washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid reagent cell, and

washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid diluent cell.

9. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the inside of the pipetting tip is pre-washed with the liquid contained in the liquid reagent cell before said step of pipetting a portion of the specimen ~~to~~ into the mixing cell.

10. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the inside of the pipetting tip is pre-washed with said liquid contained in the liquid diluent cell before said step of pipetting a portion of the specimen ~~to~~ into the mixing cell.

11. (Original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid reagent cell is performed after said step of pipetting a portion of the liquid reagent, a portion of the liquid diluent or a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell.

12. (Original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid diluent cell is performed after said step of pipetting a portion of the liquid reagent, a portion of the liquid diluent or a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell.


13. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein the step of pipetting ~~and~~ a portion of the liquid diluent into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of pipetting a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid diluent cell is performed; and then

the step of pipetting and a portion of the liquid reagent into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed.

14. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein  
the step of pipetting ~~and~~ a portion of the liquid reagent into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip is performed; and then

 the step of pipetting a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid reagent cell is performed; and then

the step of pipetting and a portion of the liquid diluent into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed.

15. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein  
the step of pipetting ~~and~~ a portion of the liquid reagent and a portion of the liquid diluent into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of pipetting a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid reagent cell is performed.

16. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein

the step of pipetting ~~and~~ a portion of the liquid reagent and a portion of the liquid diluent into the mixing cell using a pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of pipetting a portion of the specimen into the mixing cell using ~~a~~ the pipetting tip is performed; and then

the step of washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid diluent cell is performed.

17. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of pipetting the portion into the mixing cell includes a step of sucking the portion and discharging the ~~liquid in~~ sucked portion into the mixing cell.

18. (Original): A method of assaying a specimen, comprising:  
preparing (i) a specimen, (ii) a first liquid reagent cell in which a first liquid reagent is to be contained, and a second liquid reagent cell in which a second liquid reagent is to be contained, and (iii) a first mixing cell wherein the specimen and the first liquid reagent are mixed, and a second mixing cell wherein the specimen and the second liquid reagent are mixed;

supplying a first liquid reagent and a second liquid reagent respectively into the first liquid reagent cell and the second liquid reagent cell in respective amounts each exceeding the amount required in the assay;

pipetting a portion of the first liquid reagent into the first mixing cell using a pipetting tip;

pipetting a portion of the second liquid reagent into the second mixing cell using the pipetting tip;

pipetting a portion of the specimen into the first mixing cell using the pipetting tip;  
washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the second liquid reagent cell; and  
pipetting a second portion of the specimen into the second mixing cell using the pipetting  
tip.

19. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, wherein said step of  
pipetting the portion into the mixing cell includes a step of sucking the portion and discharging  
the ~~liquid in~~ sucked portion into the mixing cell.

20. (Original): A method of assaying a specimen, comprising:  
preparing (i) a specimen, (ii) a first liquid reagent cell in which a first liquid reagent is to  
be contained, a second liquid reagent cell in which a second liquid reagent is to be contained and  
a liquid diluent cell in which a liquid diluent is to be contained, and (iii) a first mixing cell  
wherein the specimen and the first liquid reagent are mixed, and a second mixing cell wherein  
the specimen reacts with the second liquid reagent;

supplying a first liquid reagent, a second liquid reagent, and a liquid diluent respectively  
into the first liquid reagent cell, the second liquid reagent cell, and the liquid diluent cell in  
respective amounts each exceeding the amount required in the assay;

pipetting a portion of the liquid diluent into the first mixing cell and the second mixing  
cell using the pipetting tip;

pipetting a portion of the specimen into the first mixing cell and the using the pipetting  
tip;

pipetting a second portion of the specimen into the second mixing cell using the pipetting tip;

washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the liquid diluent cell;

pipetting a portion of the first liquid reagent into the first mixing cell using a pipetting tip;

washing the pipetting tip with the liquid remaining in the first liquid reagent cell; and

pipetting a portion of the second liquid reagent into the second mixing cell using the

pipetting tip.

21. (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein said step of pipetting the portion into the mixing cell includes a step of sucking the portion and discharging ~~the liquid in~~ sucked portion into the mixing cell.

22. (New): The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of pipetting a portion of the specimen and a portion of the liquid into the mixing cell is performed by using the same pipetting tip.

23. (New): The method according to claim 8, wherein said step of pipetting a portion of the specimen, a portion of the liquid reagent and a portion of the liquid diluent into the mixing cell is performed by using the same pipetting tip.